

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O R 101510Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6287

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0647

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IC

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: PROGRESSIVE PARTY ATTACK ON USG AND
NATO

REF: REYKJAVIK 646 (DTG 101404Z MAY 76) (NOTAL)

1. AT PROGRESSIVE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 8-9,
PARTY LEADER AND MINJUSTICE, OLAFUR JOHANNESSON, MADE KEYNOTE
SPEECH IN WHICH HE ATTACKED USG AND NATO FOR LACK OF ACTION IN
FISHERIES DISPUTE. AFTER REVIEWING RECENT INCIDENTS ON FISHERIES
GROUNDS IN SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL TERMS, JOHANNESSON SAID, "NATO HAS
NOT BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING FOR US AND THIS IS A
DISAPPOINTMENT. NOR HAS THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS TAKEN OVER
THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH A SPECIAL AGREEMENT, SEEN
ITS WAY CLEAR TO HAVING THE DEFENSE FORCE INTERVENE. THEY HAVE
NOT THOUGHT IT THEIR DUTY TO USE THE DEFENSE FORCE FOR THE
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DEFENSE OF THE ICELANDIC TERRITORIAL WATERS....IT HAS ALSO BEEN A

DISAPPOINTMENT OF ICELAND THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT GRANT OUR REQUEST TO BORROW OR LEASE ONE OR TWO COAST GUARD SHIPS AND THAT THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO ANNOUNCE TO HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT LET ICELAND HAVE SHIPS. IN MY OPINION, WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED A DIFFERENT REACTION FROM THE AMERICANS....WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE AND WE MUST NOT FORGET WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED. WE HAVE MET LIMITED UNDERSTANDING ABROAD AND THE SCANDINAVIANS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE GIVEN US MORAL SUPPORT. WE APPRECIATE THAT BUT WE ARE REMINDED THAT WE CAN RELY ONLY ON OURSELVES."

2. CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ENDED WITH LENGTHY RESOLUTION OF WHICH FOLLOWING IS OPERATIVE SECTION ON FOREIGN RELATIONS:
"AS FOR NATO, UNDERSTANDING BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR OUR SITUATION IS THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR COOPERATION WITH THEM AND IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT FOR ICELAND TO CONTINUE THAT COOPERATION WHEN THE BRITISH COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST US. WE ARE SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED AT THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FACILITIES IN ICELAND IS NO LONGER TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED."
MARTIN

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